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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215

June 17, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Federal Communications Commission has requested – and the Congress is considering granting – authority to conduct incentive auctions of frequencies currently allocated to broadcast television. The Commission has suggested that up to 120 MHz can be reclaimed and reallocated from television broadcasting for wireless broadband purposes. I understand that the Commission has developed an Allotment Optimization Model (AOM) that has been used to investigate various scenarios for incentive auctions, including spectrum reclamation and repacking. I recognize that these are investigative scenarios and may vary from results in reality, since predicted station participation may not mirror actual behavior.

Nevertheless, this analysis would be as helpful to the Congress as it has been to the Commission in understanding the implications and potential consequences of spectrum reclamation. In my view, it is important that the Commission share the information it has gathered in order to aid the Congress in its deliberations. With this in mind, I would appreciate your thorough responses to the following questions. To the extent that the scenarios the Commission has investigated differ from those requested below, please describe those variations and provide information from scenarios closest to those I am requesting.

1. Using the assumptions that no new television stations are moved to low VHF channels (television channels two through six), that there is full protection of all existing television stations' contours, and that the results are consistent with current United States treaty obligations with Canada and Mexico, what are the general implications and impacts of reclaiming 120 MHz of spectrum from television broadcasters?
 - More specifically, how many television stations are assumed to share a channel or go off the air nationwide in this scenario? In addition, how many television stations in the Northeast (*i.e.*, the Boston-to-Washington, D.C. corridor), the Great Lakes border region, and the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas are assumed to share or go off the air in this scenario? Please

include in your response the number affected by full power television stations, Class A stations, and low power stations.

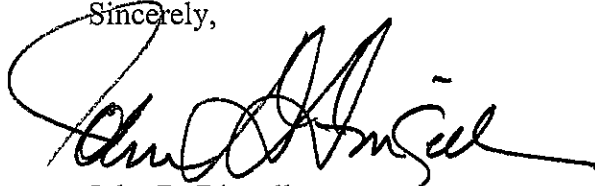
- Further, how many stations according to this scenario are required to be moved to a new channel or be repacked? How many stations are assumed to move from a UHF channel (*i.e.*, television channels above channel 14) to a high VHF channel (*i.e.*, television channels seven to 13) where digital television reception has been somewhat problematic?
2. Using the same assumptions as in Question 1, what is the impact for other scenarios under which the amount of spectrum to be reclaimed was assumed to be less than 120 MHz? Please provide the same information as the request above for scenarios investigated that result in the reclamation of approximately 90, 60, and 30 MHz, respectively.
- In the spectrum studies identified above, please indicate the total number of television viewers that will lose service and the number of channels these consumers are expected to lose (*e.g.*, 200 consumers will lose service, of which 100 consumers will lose one channel, 75 lose two channels, 20 lose three channels, and five lose six channels).
 - Similarly, please list how many consumers will gain new service, as well as the number of channels they will gain.
3. Lastly, when does the Commission plan to make the AOM model widely available for use by outside parties, particularly those meant to participate in voluntary incentive auctions?

Please provide your responses to my office **no later than the close of business on Monday, June 27, 2011**. The Congress must address our country's growing spectrum needs in the fairest manner possible, and your responses to the questions above will be invaluable in informing that important work.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or have a member of your staff contact Andrew Woelfling in my office at 202-225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", written over a horizontal line.

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner
U.S. Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Robert McDowell, Commissioner
U.S. Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
U.S. Federal Communications Commission